Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh during the past six months;

(b) whether it is a fact that poachers have recently killed the forest personnel of Kailadevi forest and Ranthambore Tiger Sanctuary in Rajasthan and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have formulated any plan to combat the problem of poaching and encroachment, and if so, what are the details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The information is being collected from the concerned State Governments and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(b) On 10-4-93, two forest personnels were killed by Poachers near Kaila Devi sanctuary in the buffer area of Ranthambore Tiger Reserve.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to check Poaching/killing of Wild animals in the States are as under:

i. Central assistance is provided to State/UT Govts, for strengthening anti-poaching infrastructure.

ii. The Directorate of Wildlife Preservation through its network of Regional Offices and Sub Regional Offices keeps a check on trade in wildlife produce to prevent any illegal shipments.

iii. Raids are carried out by the Wildlife Authorities whenever information of illegal trading in wild animals reaches them.

iv. Cooperation of Police, Coast Guard and Army is also taken in apprehending the poachers and illegal traders.

v. India is extending full cooperation to other countries in preventing illegal international trade in its capacity as a Member of CITES.

Mangrove Action Project

1045. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mangrove Action Project (MAP) has urged the Union and the Orissa Governments to honour the commitment to the Ramsar Convention in protecting the Chila Lake; and

(b) what action has been taken by Government to act upon the request of the MAP ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) No proposal called the Mangrove Action Project (MAP) has been received. The Chilka Lake is designated as one of the wetlands tinder the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention). An action plan for conservation of the Chilka lake has been prepared by the State Government of Orissa. The action plan includes measures for soil conservation, weed control, desiltation, wildlife protection and environmental awareness. An amount of Rs. 112.30 lakhs has been so far released to the State Government for implementation of this plan.

Poaching of Rhinos at the Kaziranga National Park

1046. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: DR. BAPU KALDATE :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :